based plywood industries for replacement of wood by bamboo in industrial units of North Eastern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the funds are to be placed with the North Eastern Council?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) to (c) A Memorandum addressed to Union Finance Minister and Union Minister of Commerce for the development of wood/bamboo based industries in North Eastern Region was received from the Federation of North Eastern Wood Based Industries which requested *inter alia,* to earmark Rs. 300 crore for the North Eastern Council (NEC) and extension of certain benefits to the wood based industries in the NE Region such as provision of funds for machineries for conversion of bamboo into wood, working capital etc. Generally, funds are not allocated to the NEC under its Annual Plans for specific schemes. The NEC has however supported a few industrial units for substituting wood by bamboo.

Projects Reports by NE States

2152. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have failed to cope up with the pressure to examine the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by the NE States due to lack of technical manpower and increasing workload;

(b) if so, the steps Government have initiated to make the Ministry a full-fledged one;

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal for creation of a Technical Cell in the Ministry has been submitted to the Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and by when the proposed Technical Cell will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) No madam. The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of proposals under consideration for sanction from Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) are examined by the Ministry in

consultation with expertise available in the concerned Ministries of the Government of India.

(b) to (d) There is no technical manpower in the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region. The Ministry had moved a proposal for creation a small complement of 'Technical Cell" in the Ministry, consisting of 1 Superintending Engineer, 2 Executive Engineers, 4 Assistant Executive Engineers, 3 Personal Assistants, 1 Upper Division Clerk and 2 Peons. The proposal has not been approved by the Ministry of Finance as of now.

Projects under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for NER

2153. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a total of 663 projects have been sanctioned at an approved cost of Rs. 4.151 crores under the Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many projects have been sanctioned for Assam along out of 663 projects under NLCPR?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) Seven Hundred and Fifty Nine (759) projects at an approved cost of Rs. 5096.98 crore have sanctioned up to 28.02.2006 under Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the North Eastern Region.

(b) Details are available on our website <www.mdoner.gov.in>

(c) Out of total 759 projects sanctioned for North Eastern Region under NLCPR, 234 projects have been sanctioned for Assam up to 28.02.2006.

Fund for Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal

†2154. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that package of 90 crores rupees was announced

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.